

Americans. Since the first organization opened its doors 100 years ago, more than 700 community foundations have been established throughout the country. Through the leadership and efforts of these foundations, millions of Americans have been inspired to contribute their time and talents to the betterment of society. As the representative of the First Congressional District of Indiana, I would like to take this time to proudly recognize the work of Indiana's community foundations. Indiana is most fortunate to have a community foundation in every county, including Legacy Foundation, the Crown Point Community Foundation, the Porter County Community Foundation, and the Unity Foundation of LaPorte County, which are located in the First Congressional District.

These foundations are a model for how philanthropy can inspire communities to come together in support of a common cause. Under their leadership, the communities served by these four community foundations invested \$18 million and reached more than 68,000 learners in a significant effort called the Discovery Alliance initiative. This exceptional initiative aims to support and foster youth readiness for success in school and work, adult workforce development, and removing barriers to education at all levels. This is just one example of the extraordinary philanthropic efforts of community foundations in local communities throughout the country. The spirit of generosity embodied by these community foundations is a core American value.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the many outstanding community foundations in Northwest Indiana and throughout the nation. For their dedication and commitment to serving their communities, these organizations are an inspiration and are to be commended.

JETIE WILDS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly gifted leader of the Tampa Bay community, Mr. Jetie Wilds. Mr. Wilds' dedicated his life to educating people about politics, bringing communities together, and inspiring a way forward for all people in Tampa. Today it is a privilege for me to honor his incredible legacy.

Mr. Wilds was born in Tampa, Florida to a family of 12 children. At a young age, Mr. Wilds volunteered on political campaigns and developed a passion for political activism and engagement. This strong commitment to bettering the community led him to Morehouse College in Atlanta where he obtained a Bachelor's degree. He was deeply involved in the civil rights movement by regularly participating in peace marches and sit-ins. During this time, Mr. Wilds married his wife of over 49 years, Ozeper. Mr. Wilds then began his career staying true to his roots as a public servant by becoming a middle school math teacher.

Mr. Wilds' public advocacy was not limited to civil rights; he was an ardent environmentalist who served as a community organizer for greater environmental regulations in Portland, Oregon. While there, he obtained a

Master's degree in urban planning at Portland State University. His knowledge of environmental policy later led him to Washington, D.C. where he conducted research on the impact of environmental regulations on the African American community.

Mr. Wilds returned to Tampa in 1996 and spearheaded his now locally renowned radio show, Citizens Report. During each broadcast, Mr. Wilds brought to light the significant issues facing the Tampa Bay community. He quickly developed a rapport with his audience because of his intellect and candor that kept the show on air for over 15 years. His efforts to educate and inspire action on important political issues continued through his weekly column in Tampa's trilingual newspaper, *La Gaceta*. This column consistently provided a profound perspective on issues that transcended cultural and racial boundaries.

Mr. Wilds' leadership and tireless work earned him numerous accolades including Man of the Year from the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce, Boss of the Year from the Professional Women's Organization and Distinguished College Alumnus from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

Mr. Wilds will always be remembered as a leader who united people of all races and ethnicities for the common cause of community betterment. Whether he was running for office, teaching a class or providing an insightful voice for our community on the radio—Jetie Wilds was a true public servant. On September 21, 2014, Mr. Wilds passed away at the age of 74. Mr. Speaker, I join the Tampa Bay community in thanking Mr. Jetie Wilds, Jr. for his lifelong service to the State of Florida.

HONORING IAN FLEMING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ian Fleming. Ian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1433, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ian has become a member of the Order of the Arrow and the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Ian has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Ian constructed and planted a water garden for visitors to enjoy in English Landing Park in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ian Fleming for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MABEL KOONTZ OF
BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my constituent and lifelong Bedford, Pennsylvania resident Mabel Koontz. Mabel, who is 92 years young, represents a symbol of how special our right to vote is in the United States and how important it is that every American citizen's voice is heard on Election Day.

Since 1943, when Mabel turned 21, she has never missed a vote. Over these years Mabel has casted her vote during some of America's most historic moments. She has been there as the 26th Amendment, which gave 18 year olds the right to vote, was enacted. She has also been at the polls as the American people have chosen leaders such as Ronald Reagan to move our nation forward. While our country has faced its challenges over the years, Mabel has never missed an opportunity to select elected officials at all levels of office to help our nation become stronger every time we faced adversity.

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting." These comments hold true to today and Mabel Koontz is a signature example of how special her dedication and belief in democracy has been for all of these years. Her perfect record should be a lesson and reminder to all who cast their vote every year.

I again am honored to recognize Mabel Koontz of Bedford for this remarkable achievement. Mabel's voice has been heard many times and because of people like her this nation remains today—the greatest the world has ever known.

HONORING FOSTER COMMUNICATIONS
60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Foster Communications in San Angelo, Texas on their 60th anniversary. Throughout the years, Foster Communications has been an essential part of the community and has grown side-by-side with San Angelo.

Foster Communications opened their doors in San Angelo in 1954. Foster Communications began with the vision of Walton A. Foster. He was a forerunner in bringing radio and television to the Concho Valley. Foster pioneered many radio traditions that are present today, such as having a weekly top forty hit list.

Walton and the Foster Communications family has been a staple in San Angelo since 1954. Over the past six decades, the company has created four successful radio stations that serve San Angelo and surrounding communities. Additionally, Foster was the longtime and original voice of the San Angelo Colts

baseball team. Foster also assisted in the success of many programs at Angelo State University, and in his honor, ASU named their Ram Radio studios after him.

Today, the Foster Family preserves Walton's vision for the company by carrying on the values he instilled in his company. He believed that the license he received from the FCC was to serve the greater good of the public by providing San Angelo with exceptional informational and entertainment radio. This was a responsibility he took personally and it still shows today. His work of serving others has continued with the sponsorship of various charitable causes, most notably the KIXY Cares for Kids Radio which has raised nearly \$1.5 million for the Children's Miracle Network for Shannon Medical Center. As part of his legacy, Foster employees serve as volunteers for more than 50 boards and agencies in San Angelo. I am sure he is proudly looking down on us as he watches his vision continuing to unfold.

The Foster Communications family will gather on November 20th to celebrate this tremendous 60-year milestone and reflect on the positive impact they have made on the city of San Angelo. Companies like Foster Communications symbolize the American dream through their hard work and success. I am proud to represent Foster Communications, and I am honored to share in this moment with San Angelo and the Foster family.

Again, I congratulate Foster Communications on reaching such a distinguished marker in their company history. I wish them many more years of success in the great city of San Angelo, Texas.

CARLOS BETANCOURT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and to recognize the incredible accomplishments of Mr. Carlos Betancourt. Mr. Betancourt's tireless, selfless service to the community has been a remarkable asset to the Tampa Bay area.

Mr. Betancourt is a skilled immigration paralegal who is certified by the Immigration Review Board and is accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals to handle cases in Tampa.

Mr. Betancourt's remarkable career began with the Bay Area Legal Services in 1978. He later worked at Gulf Coast Legal Service, a partner agency at the Family Justice Center, as a paralegal in 2003. Due to his talent and passion, he quickly rose to Office Manager at its Tampa location. While there, Mr. Betancourt helped provide free legal aid to immigrant victims of domestic violence and crimes. His work on these important issues continues today as Mr. Betancourt works with the Hispanic Services Council that advocates for immigrant children and battered women.

Mr. Betancourt's leadership and determination to serve others is part of every aspect of his life. He occasionally volunteers at the Hispanic Outreach Program and is an engaged participant in my roundtable discussions on comprehensive immigration reform. His efforts

earned him recognition from the Hillsborough County Domestic Violence Task Force who honored him with the "Achievements Against Domestic Violence Award" in 2012.

Mr. Betancourt is committed to educating and assisting our most vulnerable neighbors—one family at a time—to live safe, productive lives through compassionate legal aid. His integrity and passion for service sets an example that we should all aspire to. Mr. Speaker, I join the Tampa Bay community in thanking Mr. Carlos Betancourt for his outstanding service, not only to our district, but to the State of Florida.

HONORING TERENCE W.
MCGARVEY, IV

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Terence W. McGarvey, IV. Terry is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 404, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Terry has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Terry has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Terry has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Terry removed an invasive species, the Autumn Olive, from a three acre parcel of land in Thousand Hills State Park outside of Kirksville, Missouri, for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Terence W. McGarvey, IV, for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MR. WRIGHT L.
LASSITER III

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congressman MIKE HONDA and Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, to honor the extraordinary career of Mr. Wright L. Lassiter III. Mr. Lassiter is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Alameda Health System, where he has served the residents of Alameda County with distinction. In December, Mr. Lassiter begin work as President of the Henry Ford Health System in Michigan.

Mr. Lassiter graduated from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, New York with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry with honors, as well as minors in Biology and Philosophy. He went on to receive his Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration from Indiana University, where he graduated at the top of his class.

Prior to serving as CEO of Alameda Health System, Mr. Lassiter held numerous executive

positions. He served as senior vice president of operations for JPS Health Network in Fort Worth, Texas, where he oversaw operations and expanded ambulatory and specialty care services. He also served in multiple executive positions in the Methodist Health System in Dallas, Texas, overseeing support and clinical services.

During his tenure at Alameda Health System, Mr. Lassiter has created a culture of excellence and led the expansion and growth of the organization. His guidance, leadership, and accomplishments have garnered national acclaim. Some of those accomplishments include seven years of positive financial performance with operating margins as high as 19%; a \$70 million reduction of debt; the expansion of the Highland campus with a new Acute Tower and state of the art Care Pavilion; the addition of two new hospitals to the network—San Leandro Hospital and Alameda Hospital; and designation by the Joint Commission as a top performer with an increase in patient engagement from the 1st percentile to the 80th percentile.

Mr. Lassiter is also an enthusiastic community leader. He has held numerous important volunteer leadership positions in each of the communities in which he has lived and worked. These include serving as the Board Chairman for the YMCA of the East Bay, the Alameda Alliance for Health, and the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems. He also serves on the Boards of BETA Healthcare Group, the California Hospital Association, the Safety Net Institute, the Bay Area Urban Network, the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and sits on the Board of Regents of his alma mater, LeMoyne College. He is a member of both the American College of Health Care Executives and the National Association of Health Service Executives.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th, 15th, and 17th Congressional Districts, Mr. Wright L. Lassiter III, I salute you. I thank you for a lifetime of service and congratulate you on your many achievements. I wish you continued success as you go on to lead the Henry Ford Health System and serve the residents of Michigan.

HONORING ABBIE CRITES-LEONI

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Abbie Crites-Leoni from Cape Girardeau, Missouri for her exceptional successes in law and service to our community.

Abbie has been awarded several times for her achievements as a lawyer and investigative work. She has become a role model for younger women wanting to pursue a career or interest in criminal justice and law.

Apart from law, Abbie has also proven herself as a successful business owner. Alongside her husband, she helped administrate a construction company that has built suburb communities and even a wedding and event center which has benefitted the community greatly.

Most recently, Abbie has achieved a new goal of becoming a judge. This is an incredible